

**George Washington to John Morgan, April 3, 1776,
Orders, The Writings of George Washington from
the Original Manuscript Sources, 1745-1799. John C.
Fitzpatrick, Editor.**

ORDERS AND INSTRUCTIONS TO DOCTOR JOHN MORGAN¹

Cambridge, Head Quarters, April 3, 1776.

As the grand continental Army immediately upon the Command of his Excellency General Washington will, as soon as it is practicable, be assembled at New York; you are with all convenient Speed, to remove the General Hospital to that City.

As the sick in the different Houses cannot be removed, but must be attended, until they are able to march, you will leave such Surgeons, Surgeon's Mates, Apothecary and Attendants under the Direction of as are necessary for the Care of the sick now in the General Hospital.

The Medicines, Stores, Bedding, &c. not immediately wanted in the General Hospital, should be loaded in Carts, that will be provided next Saturday by the Assist. Qr. Mr. General, and sent under the Care of a proper Officer, or Officers of the Hospital to Norwich in Connecticut. Upon their arrival there, they will find his Excellency's Orders how and in what Manner to proceed from thence, whether by Land or by Water.

The Medicines order'd, upon his Excellencys Application by the Honourable the General Court of this Province, to be taken out of the Town of Boston, should be sent with the first

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of the Hospital Stores that go to Norwich, a careful Person having Orders to take Charge of the same.

The fixing and compleating the regimt. Medicine Chests, according to your Plan lately proposed, had better be deferr'd until your Arrival at New York, when that may be set about under your Inspection.

As the removing the General Hospital must be attended with such a Variety of Duty, and Attention, I must refrain from giving more particular Directions, leaving a Latitude to your Experience and Knowledge in your Profession, to govern and direct all your Motions.

Before you leave Cambridge it will be necessary to see a proper regimental Medicine Chest provided and delivered, to each of the Surgeons of the four Regiments left in the Garrison there, under the immediate Command of Major General Ward; also a Chest for Colonel Glover's Regiment, on Command at Beverley.

Reposing intire Confidence in your Care, Diligence, and Zeal for the Service, I remain satisfied of your Best Exertions, for the public Benefit.²

1 Doctor Morgan had been a surgeon in the British Army. He was appointed director general and chief physician of the Continental Hospital in October, 1775. His British service and professional jealousy brought him into conflict with 1r. William Shippen, jr., of Pennsylvania, and Morgan was dismissed in January, 1777, to be succeeded by Shippen in April of that year. Morgan's management of the hospital was investigated and his conduct vindicated by Congress June 12, 1779.

2 The draft is in the writing of 2 Thomas Mifflin.